

REMARKS

Claims 11-20 are now in the case. Claims 1-10 have been canceled without prejudice and replaced with claims 11-20 that follow generally the format of claims 1-10 but are broader in some respects and more restrictive in other respects. As to the latter, independent claim 11 recites a first turning device provided between the boom conveyor and the end of the feed conveyor opposite the feeding end for turning and transferring the piece of cloth from the feed conveyor to the boom conveyor. As will be discussed later, none of the cited art shows or suggests such structure. Similarly, independent method claim 20 includes, as one of its steps, the step of turning the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth from the second position to a third position. This turning step is performed with an essentially horizontal movement, as recited.

In regard to the Examiner's objections, the Abstract has been placed on a separate sheet and its wording does not exceed 150 words; the section headings are in upper case with no underlining; improper multiple-dependent claims have been avoided, and claims 11 and 20 include the requested line indentations.

The rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for lacking an antecedent is now moot. Claim 10 has been canceled.

The rejections of claims 1, 2, 3, and 10 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on Bucher USP 3,455,447, Reget USP 2,640,444, Peirce USP 1,445,797, and Scovell USP 826,066 are respectfully traversed. These rejections will be addressed with reference to claims 11-20.

Initially, applicant contends that none of the prior art is relevant to claims 11-20. This lack of relevancy includes a complete absence of recognition that all claims 11-20 relate to a device for feeding of an essentially rectangular piece of cloth to a feeder

(claims 11-19) or to a method of feeding essentially a rectangular piece of cloth to a feeder (claim 20). The feeding of the piece of cloth in the preamble is a limitation that cannot be ignored. The claims are not directed to feeding potatoes (Bucher), cakes (Reget), fruit (Peirce) or logs (Scovell).

The fact that the preamble is a limitation in the claims finds support in the body of the independent claims and certain dependent claims by limitations that deal with manipulation of the cloth. For example, claim 1 recites: a boom conveyor for conveying the piece of cloth...; the feed conveyor designed to receive...a straightened front edge of the piece of cloth...; a first turning device...for turning and transferring the piece of cloth..., etc. Similarly, claim 20 recites, for example: the steps of feeding...a straightened front edge of the piece of cloth...; transporting the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth...; seizing by a turning device the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth and turning...the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth...; etc.

As seen, all claims are limited by either structure or steps that act upon the piece of cloth. These references to the piece of cloth recited in the preamble incorporate the preamble as a distinct limitation for the claimed device and method and thereby excluding as irrelevant feeding structure that handles potatoes, cakes, fruit, and logs. It is submitted that the Section 102 rejections as presented in the instant Office Action ought to be withdrawn.

It should also be noted a feature of claims 11 and 20 makes the cited art even less relevant. Claim 1 requires structurally a first turning device for turning the piece of cloth, and claim 10 requires in the method that the piece of cloth be seized and turned by a turning device. In contrast, Bucher merely dumps his potatoes from conveyor 25 to

conveyor 29 placed at a right angle to conveyor 25, and does not use or contemplate a turning device, much less a turning device for turning a piece of cloth. Bucher is incapable of turning a piece of cloth. Reget shows a cake flipper in Fig. 29 in which the direction of transport remains the same. Reget does not show a turning device that can transfer a piece of cloth from a feed conveyor to a boom conveyor. In Pierce, the apples are dropped from the sorting belts to the conveyor belts at right angles thereto. Scovell (Fig. 1, 2, or 9) shows sectionalized continuous conveyors for conveying material. In Fig. 9, logs are picked up at one end of the conveyor belt and deposited on a suitable place of deposit, such as a rail car (page 3, Fig. 9). There is no turning device contemplated that could turn a piece of cloth in the context of claims 11 and 20.

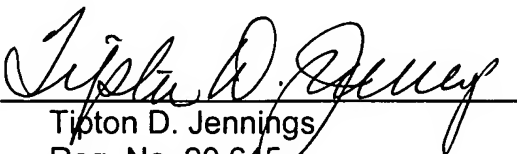
Early reexamination and allowance of claims 11-20 are respectfully solicited.

Please grant any additional extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
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Attachments: Abstract